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That much he has done well, supplying us besides with a very readable sketch of the history of sociology. For that we are grateful to him. His speculations on other heads are earnestly put forth and make good reading.

MAX SYLVIVS HANDMAN

CHICAGO

The Law and the Practice of Municipal Home Rule. By HOWARD LEE MCBAIN. New York: Columbia University Press, 1916. Royal 8vo, pp. xviii+724. \$5.00 net.

In 1875, under the irresistible influence of the widely felt disgust with the evils of the general-charter system and of special and class charters as well, Missouri incorporated in its new constitution the first of the provisions for municipal home rule. Since that time eleven other states have adopted in some form the principle of local freedom in the matter of framing city charters, and nearly a hundred and fifty cities have availed themselves of this freedom. The experience, therefore, of four decades, with a wide variety of statutes and charters and a long series of court decisions, has been demanding analysis and criticism. Nevertheless the discussions of "home rule" have been heretofore largely polemical and scarcely at all concerned with actual practices and problems. The few investigations of the latter character have yielded a chapter or two in the general treatises on municipal government or on the law of municipal corporations, and a number of magazine articles. Some of this literature is very good, but it is fragmentary and scattered and much of it is unavailable for many readers.

The service which Professor McBain has rendered by merely gathering all the present information in one place would be sufficient to command our gratitude even were the work not so excellently done as it is. Our confidence in the author is immediately engaged by the spirit in which he has undertaken his task. Without sentiment with regard to local self-government, but assuming the general desirability of municipal home rule, he has set himself to discover and "set forth the net governmental results of home rule in the states in which it has been put into operation" in order "that the actual relation in law between the city as an autonomous unit and the state government as its restricted superior may be comprehended." The volume before us is therefore, as its title implies, a treatise on a division of public law. But it is intended less for the lawyer than for the student of government, the reformer, the public-spirited layman. In this connection it is to be regretted

that the author's style is not more fluent and easy; the lay reader usually finds books on law tedious enough without having to combat an unusual strain on his attention.

Such a subject as home rule might have been treated topically, e.g., the various problems might have been classified and discussed seriatim, comparing the practices in various states and reaching conclusions on each problem separately. The author has preferred, however, to handle the subject by states because the differences between states in this respect seem so important. He recognizes the disadvantages of this method and has been partially successful in overcoming them by cross-references in text and notes. After an introductory section devoted to the history of home rule he takes up the states in the following almost chronological order: Missouri, California, Washington, Minnesota, Colorado, Oklahoma, Arizona, Oregon, Michigan, Ohio, Nebraska, and Texas. In this detailed treatment Missouri and California receive most of the author's attention, the discussion of the latter state alone occupying considerably more than a quarter of the entire volume. The method generally used in dealing with each state is to examine the machinery for framing and adopting charters, the status of the charter after adoption (i.e., whether it supersedes state law or not), the extent of the city's powers under such charters, and the conflicts between charters and state laws. It is impossible to set forth here all the author's conclusions. It may be remarked that he finds constitutional provisions usually too loosely and vaguely worded. On this account it turns out that in Washington and Minnesota, at least, home rule depends largely on the attitude of the legislature, and that in most states the whole matter hangs on the interpretation by the courts. Since the courts have not been wholly consistent it follows that the extent of a city's powers under its home-rule charter is constantly a matter of dispute. Some six or seven hundred cases are cited by the author, of which more than a hundred and fifty are in the California decisions.

The most valuable part of the volume is the chapter in which the author sets forth his general conclusions in the form of answers to twelve questions dealing with the machinery of home rule, the grant of home-rule powers, and the relation between the powers of cities and the powers of state legislatures. As is foreshadowed in his previous discussion, he demands that constitutions be more definite and clear and that the courts be relieved of the burden of developing the state's policy in the matter of home rule. Nevertheless he does not find that

provisions requiring city charters to be approved by the legislature or the governor are either sound in principle or useful in practice. What is desired is that the scope of the city's powers shall not be left to be implied from the grant of the right to make a charter nor be stated in such general terms as to give rise to uncertainty. If charter provisions are to be subject to general laws of the state, it should be definitely stated in the constitution whether this means laws relating to matters of state concern or laws of general application to cities. Better a definite narrow grant of powers than a more generous grant of doubtful extent. With the author's conclusions in the main the discerning reader will scarcely quarrel.

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International Finance. By HARTLEY WITHERS. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co., 1916. 8 vo, pp. viii+186. \$1.25.

Hartley Withers' *International Finance* is a description of the methods and machinery of international money dealing, told in an easy semipopular style. The book in large part is a résumé of the writer's previous works on the subject; but it also includes additional material covering some of the financial problems and their political consequences caused by the war. In brief, it treats of the origin and function of capital, the mechanism of loan-floating in the London market, the correlation between trade, finance, and diplomacy, the good and evil effects of international finance, and the relation of money-lending to nationalism.

In the writer's comment on the lessons taught by the war, we get a glimpse of the reaction which may be taken as typical of Lombard Street, and one that will probably have influence in shaping the future trade policies of England, against the classical theory of international specialization and divisions of labor held for over a century. Financiers, who formerly were demanding unrestricted opportunities for placing surplus earnings abroad that the country might benefit from the far-flung investments which fertilized the world and returned to England goods produced in climes best fitted for the purpose, are asking the question, "Is it a good thing for England socially and politically to enrich herself beyond a certain point by a process which involves her dependence on other countries for food and raw material," in other words, "to make and grow things where they can best be made and grown . . . if the good profits made in time of peace are likely to be wiped out, or worse, by the extent of the inconvenience and paralysis that this dependence brings with it in time of war?"

Mr. Withers does not propose a detailed reform. Realizing the impossibility of impounding capital or of restricting its use or domicile, he suggests that, if the present war ends by breeding another, all efforts be directed to